| APPLICATION NO. | FILING DATE | FIRST NAMED INVENTOR | ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. | CONFIRMATION NO. |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 09/836,386 | 04/18/2001 | Susumu Honma | 109296 | 7176 |

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| EXAMINER |
|---|
| EHICHIOYA, FRED I |

| ART UNIT | PAPER NUMBER |
|---|---|
| 2172 | |

DATE MAILED: 05/12/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

| Office Action Summary | Application No. | Applicant(s) |
|---|---|---|
| | 09/836,386 | HONMA ET AL. |
| | Examiner | Art Unit |
| | Fred I. Ehichioya | 2172 |

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

## Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

## Status

1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on _____ .

2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**.     2b) ☒ This action is non-final.

3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

## Disposition of Claims

4) ☒ Claim(s) *1 - 12* is/are pending in the application.

    4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6) ☒ Claim(s) *1 - 12* is/are rejected.

7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

## Application Papers

9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.

    Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.

    If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.

12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

## Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

    a) ☐ All  b) ☐ Some *  c) ☐ None of:

        1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

        2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____ .

        3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

    * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).

    a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.

15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

## Attachment(s)

1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____ .

4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____ .
5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6) ☐ Other: .

## DETAILED ACTION

1. The application has been examined. Claims 1 – 12 are pending in this office action.

2. Claims 1 – 12 are rejected in this office action.

### *Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103*

3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negatived by the manner in which the invention was made.

4. Claims 1, 2, 3, 5, 6, 7, 9, 10 and 11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent 5,815,704 issued to Shigeyoshi Shimotsuji et al (hereafter "Shimotsuji").

Regarding claim 1, Shimotsuji teaches a data input form retrieving system comprising:

character string extracting means for extracting a character string out of each of plural data input forms containing character strings (see column 1, lines 55 – 57);

extracting conditions input means for inputting a condition of extracting a specific data input form out of the plural data input forms (see column 1, lines 37 – 39 and column 2, line 15); and

data input form extracting means for extracting the specific data input form by retrieving the character string extracted by the character string extracting means in accordance with the extracting condition inputted by the extracting condition input means (see column 2, lines 15 – 17).

However, Shimotsuji does not disclose the claimed character string extracting means in detail as for extracting a character string out of each of plural data input forms containing character strings: Shimotsuji teaches character-line extracting means for extracting line data and character data from the input image data which includes characters, shapes lines, dots (plural forms), Figs 7, 11A – 11C. The character line extraction mean extracts line/character data from the input image of the form. The line data and the character data are the same as those of the registered form to be retrieved, and used as a retrieval key. Therefore, by inputting the blank form to be retrieved, similar form is easily retrieved according to the format data (line, character are the input to the blank form).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the teaching of Shimotsuji wherein character-line extraction means for extracting line data and character data from the input image data extracts character string out of each of plural data input forms containing character strings. The motivation is providing a document filing apparatus and method for effectively registering a new document in file memory and for easily retrieving the document from the file memory.

Regarding claim 2, Shimotsuji teaches all the character strings contained in each

of the plural data input forms are extracted (see column 1, lines 55 – 57; where

"character strings", is read on as "line data and character data").

Regarding claim 3, Shimotsuji teaches a specific character string is selected out

of the character strings contained in the plural data input forms (see column 6, lines 15

– 16).

Regarding claim 5, Shimotsuji teaches a data input form retrieving method

comprising:

extracting a character string out of each of plural data input forms containing

character strings (see column 1, lines 55 – 57 and column 3, lines 46 – 47; "The

character line extraction section 2 extracts line/character from the input image data");

inputting a condition of extracting a specific data input form out of the plural data

input forms (see column 1, lines 37 – 39 and column 3, lines 48 – 58; "The retrieval

section 5 retrieves a registered form similar to the new form from the file memory

section 4. (For example, in FIG. 4, the form B 22 similar to the form A is retrieved.) If a

similar form is registered in the file memory 4, the document data difference detection

section 3 detects the difference of the image data between the new form and the similar

form. The difference data and the specified information of the similar form (i.e., form

number) are registered in the file memory section 4. For example, in FIG. 4, the

difference data 23 and the form number 7852631 of the form B are registered"); and

extracting the specific data input form by retrieving the extracted character string

in accordance with the inputted extracting condition (see column 2, lines 15 – 17 and

column 8, lines 24 – 29;).

However, Shimotsuji does not disclose the claimed inputting a condition of

extracting a specific data input form out of the plural data input forms: Shimotsuji

teaches "a plurality of characters and lines are extracted from the new form C and the

user selects the character and line used as the retrieval key from the plurality of

selected characters and lines. In this case, the registered form including the selected

character and line is only retrieved from the file memory section 4", column 8, lines 24 –

29. The inputted extracting condition in this case is that line data and the character data

are the same as those of the registered form to be retrieved, and used as a retrieval

key. By inputting the blank form to be retrieved, similar form is easily retrieved according

to the format data (line, character are the input to the blank form).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the

invention was made to modify the teaching of Shimotsuji wherein form extracting

according to the format (line, character input to the blank form) extracts character string

out of each of plural data input forms containing character strings. The motivation is

providing a document filing apparatus and method for effectively registering a new

document in file memory and for easily retrieving the document from the file memory.

Claims 6 is essentially the same as claim 2 except that it sets forth the claimed
invention as a data input form retrieving method rather than a data input form retrieving
system and therefore rejected for the same reasons as applied hereinabove.

Claims 7 is essentially the same as claim 3 except that it sets forth the claimed
invention as a data input form retrieving method rather than a data input form retrieving
system and therefore rejected for the same reasons as applied hereinabove.

Claims 9 is essentially the same as claim 5 except that it sets forth the claimed
invention as a computer-readable recording medium recording thereon a program for
causing a computer to execute the steps rather than a data input form retrieving method
and therefore rejected for the same reasons as applied hereinabove.

Claims 10 is essentially the same as claim 2 except that it sets forth the claimed
invention as a computer-readable recording medium rather than a data input form
retrieving system and therefore rejected for the same reasons as applied hereinabove.

Claims 11 is essentially the same as claim 3 except that it sets forth the claimed
invention as a computer-readable recording medium rather than a data input form
retrieving system and therefore rejected for the same reasons as applied hereinabove.

5. Claims 4, 8 and 12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being

unpatentable over Shimotsuji in view of U.S. Patent 5,438,657 issued to

Eisaku Nakatani (hereinafter "Nakatani").


Regarding claim 4, Shimotsuji teaches a data input form retrieving system

comprising:

keyword adding means far adding a keyword to each of plural data input forms

(see column 1, lines 35 – 36);

extracting condition input means for inputting a condition of extracting a specific

data input form .out of the plural data input forms (see column 2, lines 3 – 4; column 4,

lines 11 – 15 and lines 50 – 58); and

Shimotsuji does not explicitly teach data input form extracting means for

extracting the specific data input form by retrieving the keyword added by the keyword

adding means in accordance with the extracting condition inputted by the extracting

condition input means.

Nakatani teaches data input form extracting means for extracting the specific

data input form by retrieving the keyword added by the keyword adding means in

accordance with the extracting condition inputted by the extracting condition input

means (see column 11, lines 18 – 23).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the

invention was made to combine teaching of Shimotsuji with the teaching of Nakatani

wherein input form is extracted based on the associated keyword entered. The

motivation being that searching for specific character string based on keyword input is made easy and less time consuming since keywords are associated with specific input forms.

Claims 8 is essentially the same as claim 4 except that it sets forth the claimed invention as a data input form retrieving method rather than a data input form retrieving system and therefore rejected for the same reasons as applied hereinabove.

Claims 12 is essentially the same as claim 4 except that it sets forth the claimed invention as a computer-readable recording medium recording thereon a program for causing a computer to execute the steps rather than a data input form retrieving system and therefore rejected for the same reasons as applied hereinabove.

## *Conclusion*

6. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from

the examiner should be directed to

Fred I. Ehichioya whose telephone number is 703-305-8039. The examiner can

normally be reached on M - F 8:00 AM to 4:30 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's

supervisor, Kim Y. Vu can be reached on 703-305-4393. The fax phone numbers for

the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are 703-746-7239 for

regular communications and 703-746-7238 for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or

proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 703-303-

3900.

FE
May 4, 2003

SHAHID AL ALAM
PRIMARY PATENT EXAMINER